

REMARKS

This application is a national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/02397, filed July 21, 2000, which was filed in the German language. Enclosed herewith please find a copy of the application translated into English as received from the translating party, entitled "Original Translation". Also enclosed please find a copy of the application as amended with additions underlined and deletions in brackets, which application is entitled "Version of Application with Markings to Show Changes Made". Finally, enclosed please find a clean copy of the application as amended, entitled "Clean Version of Amended Application". Applicants enclose copies of the Version of Application with Markings to Show the Changes Made and a Clean Version of the Amended Application because under the new rules, we would have had to replace almost every paragraph in the application in this Preliminary Amendment. Applicants believe that no new subject matter has been added to the application.

Referring now to "Version of Application with Markings to Show Changes Made", a claim to the priority of the German application is made at the beginning of the application. A section titled "Brief Description Of The Drawing" was inserted into the application as Paragraph 0006. The content of Paragraph 0006 is taken from Paragraph 0021. Since there is only one figure in the application, a reference was added to "FIG.1."

The claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependency found in the original PCT claims.

The phrase "holding device" has been replaced by the phrase "--holding element--". Please refer to the specification at Paragraph 0022, identifying holding device 12. The word "device " is changed to "--element--" to avoid confusion between the holding element 12 and the overall optical coupling device of the invention. Where believed necessary in the specification or claims, the word "coupling" is added to clarify reference to coupling device of the invention.

The invention describes the coupling device as being used with two waveguides. The specification at Paragraph 0009 refers to the second optical waveguide as being an optical waveguide chip. Consequently, the application was amended to identify the optical fiber referred to in various places as being the "first" waveguide.

Applicants respectfully request that all amendments made herein be duly entered into the application.

Conclusion

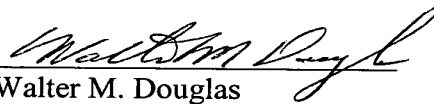
Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the application as amended and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to file this Preliminary Amendment. Should Applicants be mistaken, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this amendment timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Walter M. Douglas at (607) 974-2431.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 18, 2002

Date of Deposit: 1/19/02

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231

Signature Bethany Beligotti
Walter M. Douglas Bethany Beligotti